

City of Wilmington News from President Norman D. Griffiths

<u>For Immediate Release</u> Wednesday, December 22, 2010 Contact:
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President Norman D. Griffiths re-opens the process to fill vacant 3rd District Seat

City Solicitor advises the Ad Hoc Selection Committee to reconvene to screen interested parties.

Upon advice from City Solicitor John R. Sheridan, Wilmington City Council President Norman D. Griffiths announced that the members of the Ad Hoc Selection Committee will reconvene to interview applicants and make a recommendation to the full Council for consideration of an individual to fill the vacant 3rd District seat. The Committee, chaired by Griffiths, includes Council Members Ernest 'Trippi' Congo, Charles 'Bud' Freel, Paul F. Ignudo, Jr., and Hanifa G. N. Shabazz. Griffiths stated that in reconvening, the Committee will accept applications from the five original candidates who went through the process, as well as any others interested.

The 3rd District seat was declared vacant by Resolution 10-078 passed by City Council on November 4, 2010 after Councilmember Stephanie T. Bolden resigned her seat as a result of being elected to serve as Representative for the Second District of the House of Representatives of the Delaware General Assembly. A candidate recommended by the Committee was considered but not approved by the Council at its December 16, 2010 meeting.

The process for filling a vacancy on City Council is formally outlined in Section 2-34 of the City Code. A five member special committee of Council, appointed and chaired by the President, will make a recommendation to the full Council. The recommendation will be submitted for consideration through a Council resolution, with a majority vote required for adoption.

The deadline for accepting letters of interest and resumes from all previous and any other interested parties is January 7, 2011. Previous candidates need only indicate whether they still wish to be considered. Additionally, candidate recommendations from members of Council shall also be due by January 7, 2011.

As outlined in City Charter Section 2-101, the new member shall come from the same councilmanic district and be of the same political party, in this instance Democrat, as that of the councilmember whose office has become vacant. Further, the appointment must be approved by the majority vote of the remaining members of Council. Contact City Council Chief of Staff, Charlotte B. Barnes at 302-576-2140, with any questions about the vacancy.

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